

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for monitoring a comparative load for servers within a group of servers on a network in which a first server forwards requests to a plurality of second servers, said method comprising the steps of:

preparing a first table containing, for each of said plurality of second servers, an address and a respective counter;

dumping a copy of an address resolution protocol cache to a storage area to form a cache dump;

determining, from said cache dump, which of said plurality of second servers are present in said cache dump and for each of said second servers present, incrementing a respective counter;

after said determining and incrementing steps are completed, comparing said plurality of respective counters with each other to determine if a load imbalance between said second servers is greater than a threshold value;

if said load imbalance is greater than said threshold value, sending a message regarding said load imbalance.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said dumping and determining steps are performed repetitively and said address resolution protocol cache is cleared after each repetition of said dumping step.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said preparing step is performed initially and then only when a server is added to or removed from said plurality of second servers.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of periodically writing values of said counters to a log file and clearing said counters.

5-11. (Canceled)